**Shortage of power**

646. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that major cause of power shortage is the faulty and poor quality transmission lines and the loss incurred during transmission through illegal tapping of connections on route to the end user;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) what measures are contemplated to set right the system?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The energy and peak shortages in the country during the period April-October, 2004 was 6% and 10% respectively as compared to 6.8% and 11% during the corresponding period last year.

(c) and (d) The main reasons for shortage of power are:

(i) Growth in demand for power outstripping the growth in generation and capacity addition.

(ii) Shortage of peaking power in the Grid.

(iii) Poor performance and low Plant Load Factor of some of the thermal generating units in the State sector.

(iv) Inadequate sub-transmission and distribution network in the States.

(v) High transmission and distribution losses.

(e) The Government is implementing Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of the Sub-Transmission and Distribution System with the objective of reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, improving quality of supply of power, increasing revenue collection and improving consumer satisfaction.

The Electricity Act, 2003 provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Under APDRP incentive is also being provided to State Government/Power Utilities for reducing case losses, a significant portion of which is on account of theft of power.

**Setting up Hydro-Electric Projects**

647. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre is pursing the agenda to set up more hydro-electric projects, in view of the cost effectiveness of power produced there from;

(b) if so, whether preliminary feasibility studies are underway for these projects; location-wise and capacity-wise; and

(c) how many preliminary feasibility studies, earlier submitted by consultants are under examination of the Government and how soon these are likely to be given CEA clearance?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the 50,000 MW Hydroelectric initiative launched by government of India in May, 2003, Preliminary Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 162 schemes spread over 16 States with an aggregate installed capacity of 47,930 MW have already been prepared. The details of these schemes are given in the Statement (see below).

These PFRs provide basis for prioritization of schemes for their selection for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The schemes would be considered for clearance after Detailed Project Reports of these schemes are prepared by the concerned agencies and submitted to Central Electricity Authority.